

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 2 February 2006. It was the 209th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL Bob Bunting, Co-Chair	CSM Charles E. Frye, Co-Chair
COL Charles A. Block (USMC)	CSM James W. Harris
COL Herman S. Heath	SGM Lloyd M. Rogers, Assoc Sec
COL James E. Hyers	SGM Samuel V. MacMaster
LTC Clarence R. Collins	1SG Jackie Ray
LTC James R. Mellish	SFC Joseph N. Barnes
CDR James E. Cobb (USN)	

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL William E. Crouch	CSM William Jolley
	1SG John J. McCracken, Jr. (USAF)

ADVISORS PRESENT

LTC Antonio Lora, LAHC
Mr. George W. Steuber, DGC
Mrs. Deborah Seimer, AG
Ms. Diane Snodgrass, AAFES Manager
Mr. Tim Laster, DMWR
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO

2. CSM Frye called the meeting to order at 1135.
3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.
4. Old Business – None
5. Committee Reports

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a. Public Affairs - It was noted that PAO attended the last meeting, but the council meeting was not on the Post calendar nor was it attended by a PAO representative this month. SGM MacMasters gave each attendee a Post Monthly Calendar and attention was called to the National Prayer Breakfast on 16 February at 0630 at the Aviators' Landing and on ITR's "Travel Extravaganza" on 7 March at the Aviators' Landing.

b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported the Senate confirmed the new Supreme Court Justice. Members of the military coalition met with Sen. Bilirakis' staff to discuss concurrent receipt strategy in light of last year's modest program. House minority leaders sent a letter to the President not to increase military beneficiary health fees to pay for weapons programs. The Veterans Disability Benefits Commission will hold field hearings and the closest one for this area will be Atlanta in September. Senator Warner and Representative Davis are proposing bills to make all health premiums including dental, TRICARE, etc. pre-taxed for active duty, guard, reserve and retired military. The 4% cut in Medicare has been stopped. COL Block added that all retirees should belong to a veterans service organization because numbers count with congress.

c. Health Care - LTC Lora stated the loss of Dr. Searcy from the staff has caused the TRICARE Plus patients to seek providers off-post and the Clinic is hoping to replace her this month. He asked that special needs drugs be brought to his attention to see if they could be stocked in the pharmacy. A discussion of the pharmacy funding followed. LTC Collins stated the phone number for the audiologist is 255 7185. CSM Harris added issues affecting the Clinic were the first order of business at the health care meetings.

d. Volunteers Program - SFC Barnes reported the Volunteer of the Month was Ms. Tanya Berg. The deadline for submitting volunteer hours is 15 February and deadline for awards is 16 February. SFC Barnes asked each member to report volunteer hours logged since September 2005 to him. There will be a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on 27 April and a Volunteer Appreciation Golf Tournament on 7 April to help pay for the luncheon.

e. Consolidated Club System - COL Block reported the format for 2006 Christmas parties is still undecided, i.e., one for the Post or unit parties. The lunch line has been remodeled and a new lunch menu is being used. Customers buying a lunch line special and beverage combination allows for a punch on the free meal card which gives a free meal for a fully "punched" card. A new catering menu is in place which recommends a single entrée to hold down cost. A sweetheart dinner is scheduled for 11 February and prime rib night is the last Saturday of the month. Gross sales were down in December 2005 compared to December 2004. COL Block stated this would be his last meeting on the Club System Committee. LTC Collins will replace him.

f. Commissary - CDR Cobb reported there will be a Del Monte foods sale along with a Valentine Dinner Sale.

g. PX - CDR Cobb introduced Ms. Dianne Snodgrass the new AAFES Store Manager. She stated that she would be at every meeting. She passed out a registration card to join the PX Managers "Buddy List." This will allow the members to get advance notice of upcoming sales and events at the PX. There will be a "Sidewalk Sale" on 17 February from 1000 until 1800.

h. Golf Course - COL Heath reported the golf course was in the black for the first quarter of the fiscal year. The new irrigation system and cart path restoration projects are underway. If a retired military member renews dues prior to 28 February, there is a dues savings of \$120. Roger Harmon is the new Course Superintendent and he has an impressive background which should improve the playability and the appearance of the course.

i. Equestrian Center - COL Heath reported horse trials on 4-5 March 2006 and they were getting the course ready and soliciting support.

j. Outdoor Recreation - 1SG Ray reported that as of 18 January, there had been 17 doe and 20 buck harvested on Fort Rucker. On any lake less than 500 acres, crappie less than 9 inches can be kept but on Lake Tholocco and streams feeding the lake, crappie had to be at least 9 inches long.

k. Bowling Alley - See last months minutes.

l. RAD - Mr. Moore is looking for guest speakers for RAD.

6. Advisors Comments -

a. Mr. Steuber reported that Fort Rucker should receive its Funding Letter shortly but 2006 execution figures would probably be 20% lower than 2005. This could mean 20 million dollars less. The contract for the new Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence Control Building (Post Headquarters) must be let before 1 October 2006 or the post will lose \$1.5 million dollars of construction money due to an Army 15% tax on NCA projects. This building will be built where the Post Conference Center, Aviation Safety, and PAO building currently stands. Upon completion and office relocation into the new building, the old building will be destroyed and that area will become a parking area. Repaving of Andrews Avenue will begin on 3 February. Ms. Deena Jones is the new Strategic Planner and will be making a master plan for Fort Rucker which will include all post organizations. From now on, families in post housing will receive BAH but will sign a lease and make an allotment to the contractor equal to that amount. Upon clearing, the contractor will clean and prepare the quarters for the next occupant. All BAH monies collected will remain here for use on post instead of forwarding them to Department of the Army level.

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b. Mrs. Seimer reminded the council of the Sergeant Majors Association meeting on 10 February at 1800 in the Daleville VFW Hall.

c. Mr. Laster thanked COL Block for his years of support, consultations, and advice to the Consolidated Club Systems. The work on the RV Park at Engineer Beach is going well. It is expanding from 18 to 48 slots with electric and water hookups and will even have "pull-through" slots for large RVs.

7. New Business – None.

8. Co-Chairman's Comments –CSM Frye apologized for the length of the meeting.

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1250. The next scheduled meeting will be held at the Aviator's Landing on 2 March 2006 at 1130.

Approved via email 8 FEB 06

BOB BUNTING

COL, Retired

Co-Chairman

Approved via email 8 FEB 06

CHARLES E. FRYE

CSM, Retired

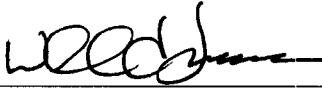
Co-Chairman

Approved via email 8 FEB 06

LLOYD M. ROGERS

SGM, Retired

Association Secretary

 **FEB 22 2006**

WILLIAM S. LARESE

COL, Aviation

Garrison Commander